

DEMING GRAPHIC.

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No. 15

REPLY TO SKINNER.

Rev. Thos. Harwood Reviews Progress of Territorial Schools

We print the following article written by Rev. Thos. Harwood and published in El Abogado Cristiano; because we feel that no person is in a better position to give the facts in regard to our schools than Dr. Harwood who has spent thirty years in missionary and educational work in the territory, and surely no one could have more interest than he whose sole ambition is to aid and encourage the spiritual and intellectual advancement of the people, without any thought of personal gain.

We are not in the habit of making any unfavorable reference to our Presbyterian brethren or their work in this territory, for in one sense our work is all one and we have always given them credit for doing a good work, but when one of their principal men, away from home; before a body of probably more than 700 of the most select preachers and laymen of their church, strikes such an unlooked for blow at New Mexico, its people, our missionary work and statehood, we would not be true to the Mexican people, the American people, the church work and territory did we not resent it. The following is said to be an exact statement made by Mr. Skinner at the general assembly of the Presbyterian church, recently held in Los Angeles, Cal., and said to have been reported by one of their own stenographers. We have looked for and awaited for a denial or some explanation of what is reported as having been said by him and as a greater part of a month has passed since his address was made and it has been in almost all the papers in New Mexico, both English and Spanish, we infer that there is no denial of any part of the address or explanation to be made, and hence we give the following as a part of his address referring to New Mexico, with comments:

"I shall endeavor to speak the very last thing they want to hear in my country, the truth. They are afraid of it, or dodge it, or deny it. We have a population of 200,000, 100,000 Mexicans.

"Not 10 per cent of the Mexicans have any education whatever; all are looked upon with contempt by the whites.

"We have no common schools that are worthy the name. Public instruction is the varietal farce and whole families of all conditions are being brought up in absolute ignorance. I prophesy that it will take fifty years before we have any adequate system, and during that time charity is all for which we can hope.

"There is in this country brethren, with its 90,000 poor, illiterate children, bought and sold like cattle at every election and at lower prices, into whose hands you propose to put the ballot of citizenship. Why, statehood is the very last thing that is wanted out there by men with public wealth at heart. Pernicious private influences sought it, but my prayer, morning, noon and night, is, from statehood, from corporate influence and from Matthew Quay, on Lord deliver us," etc.

"Not 10 per cent of the Mexicans have any education whatever." So said Mr. Skinner.

The above statement was very nearly true thirty-four years ago when Mr. Skinner's church and some others began their school work in New Mexico, but if it is true now, why call for more schools? Mr. Skinner says "the churches must put in more schools." But why, if the mission schools we have had all these years have not reduced the per cent of illiteracy? Or did not Mr. Skinner forget himself when he said that "not 10 per cent of the Mexicans have any education whatever," and imagine himself back over a quarter of century ago? Why could not Mr. Skinner see that he was turning his battery upon his own ranks and injuring his own cause? His church reports twenty-three schools in New Mexico forty-six teachers, 1,525 students, and \$33,472 expended last year; but what does it avail if the illiteracy stands the same as when or before such work was commenced? And the Methodist Episcopal church reported last year thirteen schools, nineteen teachers, 305 scholars; the Congregationalists, six schools, eleven

teachers, 338 students; the Baptists, four schools, fourteen teachers, 233 students; total for all the Evangelical churches, forty-six schools, ninety teachers, 2,401 students, all at an expense of \$55,620. Why keep up all these schools at such an expense, if the illiteracy of the territory is not being reduced? The Roman Catholics have eighteen schools, sixty-seven teachers and 1,754 students.

Is it not strange that out of that vast Presbyterian host of 700 ministers commissioners at 115th assembly, representing a church of 7,532 ministers and a membership of 1,023,338 and 500,000 young men and women of the Christian endeavor society, that some one does not inquire of Mr. Skinner, "what becomes of all the money we are spending down there, if it be true that, after all this, 'not 10 per cent of all Mexicans have any education?'" We are sure that the missionary authorities of our own church would call us down and out and home (if we had any homes to go to) if for the third of a century no progress had been made on the line of education.

Also here are our public schools. If Mr. Skinner imagined himself back a third of a century, or 1870 or 1872, he was about right. We had no public schools until about 1882. At that date, this writer had been advocating the public school system in the face of a strong opposition for three years. At that time, 1870, the census showed the per cent of illiteracy to be 85 over ten years of age.

Of course the first public school law was a poor one, and the first public schools were poor ones, but they were the best that could be had at that time.

They were better than none, and they have been improving ever since. The mission schools were just what the territory needed at the beginning. These with good teachers soon showed the people what schools would do for their children and open the way for the public school, and these with the incoming of the American people have reduced the illiteracy very rapidly. From 85 per cent of illiteracy in 1870 to 65 in 1880, and then to 44 and a half in 1890, and last to 32 in 1900, and, as is believed by the superintendent of public instruction, to a much less figure than the above, and yet we are told by Mr. Skinner that we have no "common schools that are worth the name." Surely schools that will reduce the per cent of illiteracy as above shown are not as he says "the varietal farce."

What other states and territories have done better?

Between 1890 and 1900 New Mexico filled a cap of illiteracy of almost 32 per cent. No other state or territory has done so well.

The governor's report for last year shows that New Mexico, October 1, 1902, had 710 schools, 1,077 teachers employed, and had expended \$747,508, 71. Of the above number of pupils, enrolled, 7,593 were enrolled in cities.

Bernalillo county has forty school districts; Albuquerque has five school buildings, and why should not we have as good schools as almost anywhere else? A great many of our teachers are from the states. Why should they not teach as well here as there. Can Mr. Skinner see any reason why? If not how can he say there is "not a common school worthy the name," and they are the varietal farce?"

Out of the 1,077 teachers employed in our 710 public schools in New Mexico there surely must be quite a number who were educated in the schools of Mr. Skinner's own church. Why should they not teach a good school? The Methodist Episcopal church is spending but very little money for schools in New Mexico compared with the amount his church is expending, and yet we had at least seven teaching in public schools last year, three county superintendents of public instruction and have had four in the legislature; and if Mr. Skinner's church has done as well in proportion to the amount of money expended and number of teachers employed then there has been quite a per cent from the mission schools in the legislature, school superintendents and teachers, and if we haven't any "common schools worthy the name" we are very largely to blame: but we have good schools or we could not have surpassed all other territories and states in



Deming Public School Building.

This structure is substantially built of brick, has seven rooms and would be a credit to any town of 1500 inhabitants in the country. Almost every town of any importance in the territory has school buildings similar to this one and an able corps of teachers is employed several months each year preparing the children for the colleges which are conveniently located in various parts of the territory. In addition to these there are good district schools in nearly all country settlements which prepare the children for the advanced grades of the town schools. This is an object lesson that outweighs any arguments improving the social and intellectual condition of our territory.

the decrease of our illiteracy.

It is not true that the "Mexican people are looked upon with contempt by the whites." Do you so look upon them, Mr. Skinner? Such statements are calculated to stir up strife among the people, and we are very sorry that Mr. Skinner made such a statement. Many of the Protestant Mexican people speak of such reflection upon them in this way: "The American preachers and teachers come among us open schools and missions, teach us and our children (we need their instruction), they seem to like us while they are with us, but they go away, make fun of us, abuse us, say many things about us that are not true, and we don't like it. Who can blame them?"

As to the charge of "being bought and sold at elections like cattle," we can not answer positively to this charge. We have never dabbled in this kind of business. If Mr. Skinner has, he knows better than we. It may be that some low down fellow could be bought, but we don't believe it is a common thing. We knew a case where it is said that a wealthy Mexican tried to hire men at a big price per day for a few days to fight Americans. He could not find a man. We have heard of several cases where Americans, strong sympathizers with the rebellion of the south, tried to hire Mexicans to use their influence against the United States government. They failed to find their men. The Mexican people, as a rule, were loyal to our government during the dark days of the rebellion. This of itself ought to weigh much with the people everywhere. It was this patriotic spirit that led President Roosevelt the other day, to say, as he was passing from the train to the stand at the Alvarado to address the citizens of Albuquerque, while passing between the open files of his guard of honor, the Grand Army of the Republic, "I know I am safe here." And he was and so would our loyal government be safe to admit our loyal territory into the Union.

What a compliment the president paid to the old veterans while making his address at the park to the students of the Indian school, still guarded by the same old veterans. "The members of the Grand Army of the Republic stand the highest in my esteem of any of the orders or organizations, because by their valor and sacrifice they made it possible for us to enjoy all the blessings at a nation that we are now in possession of, today." If such be the feeling of the chief executive of our great country toward those who were

loyal to our flag during the dark days of the rebellion, ought we not to hold in high esteem the people of the territory who gave us, as it is claimed, about one-seventh of its entire population to help to save our country from shame?

Neither is it true that "all who have the weal of New Mexico at heart are opposed to statehood." If we have a single preacher, among our forty including local preachers and exhorters in this mission who is opposed to statehood, we do not know who it is. We are sure they all have the "weal of New Mexico at heart."

Lawn Party.

Mrs. Walter Guiney very pleasantly entertained a number of friends last Thursday evening at a basket lawn party. The lawn was illuminated with lanterns and a lunch furnished by the ladies present and spread under the trees, after luncheon was over the evening was spent in conversation and recounting experiences (real and imaginary). Those present were: Mesdames Wyman, Pollard, Corbett, Shepherd, Swope, Meyers, Thurmond, Greer, Clement, Hodgdon, Chace and sister, Misses Kindrick, Powell, Lillian and Pansy Smith, McGlinchey and Ione Hodgdon. Drs. McLellen and Rexford, Messrs. Corbett, A. Field, Thurmond, Cox, Hodgdon, P. R. Smith Jr., Rogers, F. Nordhaus, Vail, and Healy.

A Pretty Wedding.

Roped with a garland of flowers, tied with a love knot and corraled at pleasant cottage home of the bride's estimable parents on Copper avenue in this village, on Thursday evening at 8:30 o'clock where were assembled relatives and a few of the many friends of Mr. Phillip T. Williams and Miss Grace Moore to bear witness to the marriage vows to be spoken and the words to be said which would bind them together heart to heart the lives of two of Deming's favored young people.

Rev. Arthur Marston of the Methodist church performed the ceremony in his usual impressive manner, thereafter, ice cream and cake were served, and after a brief moment of congratulations and jollification, the guests departed. The principals to this happy occasion left on Saturday morning to take up their residence at the ranch home of Mr. Williams, in the southwestern portion of Luna county, there to permanently reside. It might be mentioned that an old pard of the groom stated, "that it was the first time he had ever seen Bud at a 'round up,' without his spurs."

The Best Country For Consumptives.

Having been a subscriber of your paper for many years, I take the liberty of addressing you on a subject which may be of interest to many readers of your valuable publication.

Tuberculosis, or consumption of the lungs, which is destroying the health and lives of our people by the thousands, and which is now admitted by all the greatest physicians and scientists of the world to be contagious, has taken such deep root in the United States, and the loss of life from this dread disease is so great that any information tending towards the relief and cure of it is everywhere eagerly sought for, and it is to call attention to this fact which have not heretofore been presented to your attention and no doubt many of your readers who have sons and daughters, or other relatives or friends who are afflicted with this disease will be glad of information which may lead to prolongation of the lives of loved ones.

Beyond a doubt Colorado is a much better climate than anything east of Kansas, but the pretical results here and the statistics show that there is no country where the conditions are so favorable to the relief and cure of this terrible disease as that section in New Mexico and Arizona lying west of the Rio Grand along the foothills of the Rocky mountains to the town of Tucson Arizona. The reports of the physicians and surgeons of the Government sanitarium at Fort Bayard, and the private and official reports of physicians and sanitariums all prove that at least 25 per cent more cures are effected here than any other section of the world. I have seen so much suffering from this cause and have seen so many of these sufferers restored to health and prosperity in this country during the last 20 years, that I am delighted to see the National colony and sanitarium for consumptives is to be located somewhere in southwestern New Mexico.

This great movement is purely philanthropic and benevolent in its character and is the first and only one of its kind so far organized in the world. It is non-sectarian and non-political; its charter membership as will be seen by the list of names, is composed of Protestants and Catholic, Jews and Gentiles and they are all working together to make the enterprise a benefit to humanity.

Many consumptives who come to this climate and get well can never safely return to the east. To such I would say that in all common vocations of life the chances here are about equal to those of any other part of the Union and better than in many other sections of the country. This is a semi arid country, but there is plenty of water to be had and those who desire to remain can have beautiful homes, trees, fruits and flowers and all the ordinary comforts of life. We have quick railroad transportation to all parts of the country; we have a mild even climate, altitude 4,000 feet above sea level, pure air and water and bright sunshine which comprises all the essentials for speedy improvement and cure of tuberculosis.

J. I. Epstein, of St. Louis, is one of the charter members of the National colony and sanitarium association and an active and enthusiastic worker in the cause. I do not know Mr. Epstein personally, but I am told he is a man of prominence and excellent understanding. I enclose a list of the charter members of this association, from which you will see that no better guarantee is needed to insure the faithful carrying out of the plans and the purposes of association. I would further recommend that those who are suffering with this trouble investigate this locality, as I know from personal experience that there is beyond doubt, no better place all things considered, for pulmonary troubles and I shall be glad to furnish any information in my power bearing upon the matter. I hope you will give this space in your paper but if too much for free publication, I will gladly pay for it, as I feel an intense interest in the poor sufferers from this terrible destroyer.

Very sincerely yours,
S. Lindauer, in the-American Israelite.
Deming, New Mexico, June, 1903.